



# CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

#1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA

DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2023

## **Community Garden coming to Johns Hill neighborhood**

Decatur, IL – A new community garden will beautify and supply fresh fruits and vegetables to the Johns Hill neighborhood for years to come.

The Southside Improvement Association (SIA), City of Decatur, ADM, Block by Block, and Johns Hill Magnet School are collaborating to create a community garden in Decatur's Johns Hill neighborhood. The garden site, located on the corner of E Lawrence St. and S Maffit St., is two-thirds of an acre. The SIA neighborhood association is leading the project.

"Everyone is excited about the community garden. This will be a beautiful enhancement to the neighborhood," said SIA Community Garden Co-Chair Kathy Williams. "A special thank you to City of Decatur, ADM, Block by Block, DPS #61 Johns Hill, SIA Garden Committee, The Garden Path, and SIA Neighborhood for making this possible."

The City previously acquired and demolished homes to clear this space and is investing \$25,000 of Neighborhood Revitalization funds.

"This community garden is another fantastic addition to the revitalization happening in Johns Hill. It is a direct result of the Jasper Street Great Streets Great Neighborhoods project," said City Economic & Community Development Director Cordaryl "Pat" Patrick. "These public-private partnerships allow the City to leverage neighborhood revitalization funds for lasting improvements and we believe this project will create more of a sense of place and pride for Johns Hill."

Volunteers from SIA, ADM, and Block by Block will spend all day Friday, Oct. 20 preparing the garden. In addition to volunteer time, ADM Cares provided an investment to match employee donations and volunteer hours.

"We are proud to not only provide monetary contributions to support the Decatur community, but we are thrilled to partner with Block by Block and the Southside Improvement Association to engage our team

in this volunteer initiative. Decatur is home to our largest employee population, and ADM has a strong footprint in Decatur, and we want to do our part to help ensure Decatur, and more specifically the Johns Hill neighborhood, remains a strong and vibrant community for many years,” said Jennifer Ballinger, Director, ADM Cares.

“Through partnerships such as this, there are so many ways to collaborate and leverage resources. At ADM, we are dedicated to contributing to a wide variety of programs and nonprofit organizations that are doing important work throughout this community, making an impact from a local economic standpoint and providing successful outcomes. Through our collective efforts with Block by Block and the Southside Improvement Association, and our shared commitment to our communities, we are helping those who need it the most.”

The garden will have vegetables, fruits, herbs, a butterfly/hummingbird garden, and an open space for events or future garden expansion. Johns Hill School will have space in the garden for educational purposes. The grounds will be maintained by students along with volunteers from SIA and Block by Block.

#### **Contacts:**

Kathy Williams – SIA

Text: 217-619-1125

Ryan Huffer – City of Decatur

[rhuffer@decaturil.gov](mailto:rhuffer@decaturil.gov)

217-450-2249

Dane Lisser – ADM

[media@adm.com](mailto:media@adm.com)

414-379-1288

###

#### **About ADM Cares**

ADM Cares is ADM’s corporate social investment program. ADM Cares helps sustain and strengthen communities where ADM colleagues work, live and operate by directing funding, volunteerism, and industry knowledge to initiatives and organizations that drive meaningful social, economic and environmental progress worldwide with a focus on three main pillars that align with ADM's purpose:

- Advancing health & well-being
- Supporting sustainability
- Increasing food security

#### **About ADM**

As one of the world’s largest nutrition companies, ADM is a leader in both human and animal nutrition, unlocking the power of nature and transforming crops into ingredients and solutions for foods, beverages and supplements for people all around the world. ADM’s breadth, depth, insights, facilities and logistical expertise provides unparalleled capabilities to meet needs for food, beverages, health and wellness and more. From the seed of the idea to the outcome of the solution, ADM enriches the quality of life the world over. For more information, visit [www.adm.com](http://www.adm.com).